

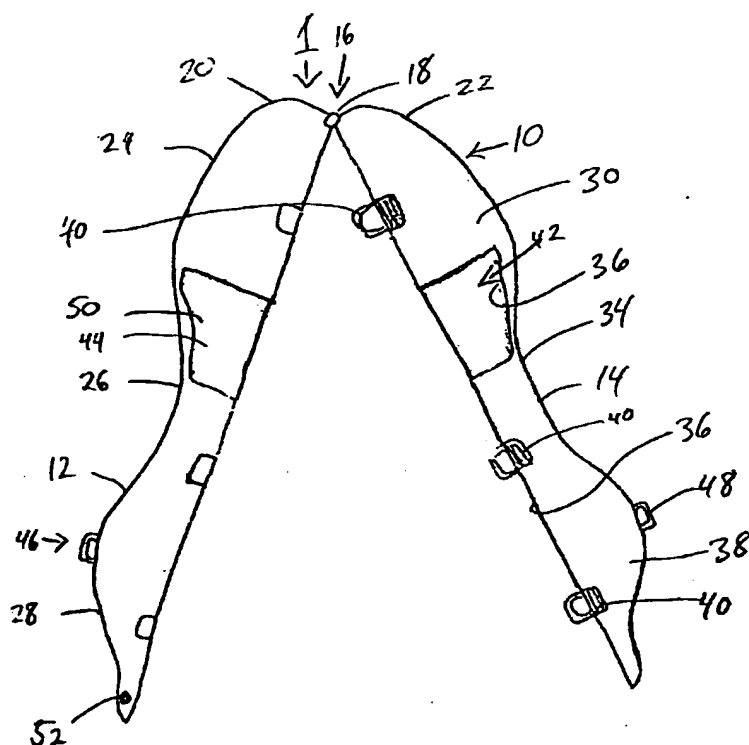
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(51) Int.Cl.⁶ B63H 21/36

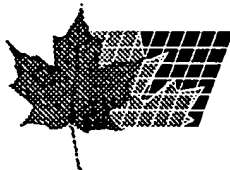
(54) **ENVELOPPE PROTECTRICE POUR MOTEURS HORS-BORD
ET SEMI-HORS-BORD**

(54) **PROTECTIVE APPARATUS FOR OUTBOARD BOAT MOTORS
OR INBOARD-OUTBOARD BOAT DRIVES**



(57) La présente invention a pour objet une enveloppe protectrice pour moteurs hors-bord et propulseurs semi-hors-bord. L'enveloppe protectrice en question comporte un espace intérieur défini par un matériau rigide et résilient et est configurée de manière à s'ajuster par-dessus la partie externe d'un système de propulsion de bateau. L'enveloppe protectrice en question peut être ajustée tant sur les moteurs hors-bord que sur les propulseurs semi-hors-bord; celle-ci comporte une doublure en mousse qui est destinée à épouser la forme des composants externes. L'enveloppe protectrice ainsi configurée contribue à réduire l'exposition des

(57) A protective apparatus for outboard boat motors or inboard-outboard boat drives is described. The protective apparatus comprises a hollow housing composed of a rigid resilient material arranged to be fitted over the outboard portion of a boat drive system. Of note is that the protective apparatus is arranged to be fitted over outboard motors as well as inboard-outboard drive systems and includes a foam liner for fitting the housing tightly around the outboard portion. As a result of this arrangement, the protective apparatus reduces the exposure of the outboard portion to the elements, such as rain, sun and snow which can damage the boat drive



(21) (A1) **2,219,750**
(22) 1997/10/31
(43) 1999/04/30

composants externes aux éléments tels la pluie, le soleil et la neige, lesquels sont susceptibles d'endommager le système de propulsion. En outre, l'enveloppe protectrice en question protège les composants externes contre la faune et la flore aquatiques ou marines, comme les mollusques, par exemple. L'enveloppe protectrice en question possède une résilience suffisante pour résister aux chocs des cailloux pouvant survenir en cours de transport vers le débarcadère. L'enveloppe protectrice en question diminue donc significativement l'exposition des composants du système de propulsion aux risques d'avaries, ce diminue significativement la fréquence des réparations. En outre, l'enveloppe protectrice est configurée de manière à recouvrir les organes de fixation et de retenue tels boulons et câbles, ce qui est de nature à contribuer à la prévention du vol.

system. Furthermore, the protective apparatus protects the outboard portion from fresh water and salt water marine life such as mollusks. The protective apparatus is also arranged to be resilient enough to resist blows from rocks during transport of the boat to the docking area. Thus, the protective apparatus greatly reduces the exposure of the outboard portion of the boat drive system to potentially damaging elements, thereby significantly reducing frequency of repair. Furthermore, the protective apparatus is arranged so as to enclose the bolts and/or wires that connect the boat drive system to the transform of the boat so that the protective apparatus also acts as a theft deterrent device.



-10-

ABSTRACT:

A protective apparatus for outboard boat motors or inboard-outboard boat drives is described. The protective apparatus comprises a hollow housing composed of a rigid resilient material arranged to be fitted over the outboard portion of a boat drive system. Of note is that the protective apparatus is arranged to be fitted over outboard motors as well as inboard-outboard drive systems and includes a foam liner for fitting the housing tightly around the outboard portion. As a result of this arrangement, the protective apparatus reduces the exposure of the outboard portion to the elements, such as rain, sun and snow which can damage the boat drive system. Furthermore, the protective apparatus protects the outboard portion from fresh water and salt water marine life such as mollusks. The protective apparatus is also arranged to be resilient enough to resist blows from rocks during transport of the boat to the docking area. Thus, the protective apparatus greatly reduces the exposure of the outboard portion of the boat drive system to potentially damaging elements, thereby significantly reducing frequency of repair. Furthermore, the protective apparatus is arranged so as to enclose the bolts and/or wires that connect the boat drive system to the transom of the boat so that the protective apparatus also acts as a theft deterrent device.

-1-

**PROTECTIVE APPARATUS FOR OUTBOARD BOAT MOTORS
OR INBOARD-OUTBOARD BOAT DRIVES**

The present invention relates to a protective apparatus for outboard boat motors or outboard boat drives.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

It is all too often necessary to replace or repair the boat drive system of a boat, whether the boat drive system is an outboard motor or an inboard-outboard drive system. This is a direct result of the fact that the boat drive system is exposed and highly vulnerable to damage and/or theft. Specifically, the boat drive system may be damaged by dust, dirt and/or flying rocks during transport of the boat over highways and dirt roads to the docking area. Furthermore, the boat drive system may become corroded as result of exposure to salt water or become overgrown with marine growth such as mollusks while in either fresh water or salt water. Finally, boat drive systems are popular targets for thieves who need to remove only a few bolts or snip a few wires to separate the boat drive system from the boat. Given the expense involved in replacing or repairing a boat drive system, it is obvious that a device that protects the boat drive system of a boat from damage as well as theft is needed.

20

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

It is one object of the invention, therefore, to provide a protective apparatus for outboard boat motors or inboard-outboard boat drives.

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a protective apparatus for a boat drive system having an outboard portion thereof that is

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-2-

outboard of the transom and mounting means mounting the outboard portion on the transom, said protective apparatus enclosing the outboard portion and comprising:

a housing composed of a rigid material, said housing being configured to be fitted over the outboard portion so as to enclose the outboard portion, thereby preventing damage to the outboard portion while in use, transit or storage, said housing including an opening to accommodate the mounting means. As the housing encloses the outboard portion of the boat drive system, the boat drive system is insulated against damage from the elements, such as rain, sun and snow as well as from debris such as dust or rocks while in use, in storage or in transport. Furthermore, enclosure of the boat drive system in a rigid material restricts access to the bolts and/or wires connecting the boat drive system to the transom, thereby making theft of the boat drive system more difficult and time consuming.

The housing may be composed of a resilient plastics material. Thus, the housing is light-weight but resistant to damage from rocks, stones and the like.

Preferably, the housing comprises a first portion and a second portion connected by hinge means. The housing may include clasps for securing the first portion and the second portion together. Thus, the two portions of the housing are arranged to pivot about the hinge means to facilitate fitting the housing over the outboard portion of the boat drive system. The first portion and the second portion are then clasped together, thereby enclosing the outboard portion of the boat drive system in a rigid, resilient casing.

The housing may have a base and the base may include a drain plug.

The housing may include an inner resilient foam liner. As a result of this arrangement, the shape of the interior of the housing is flexible so that the housing may be fitted over several different makes and models of boat drive systems.

-3-

The housing may include belt loops for anchoring the housing to the boat transom. As a result of this arrangement, the outboard portion of the boat drive system will not wobble while in use.

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an outboard
5 motor housing for an outboard motor including mounting means for mounting the motor on the transom of a boat, said housing composed of a rigid material and being configured to be fitted over the outboard motor so as to enclose the outboard motor, thereby preventing damage to the outboard motor while in use, transit or storage, said housing including an opening to accommodate the mounting means.
10 Thus, in this embodiment, the housing is arranged specifically for use with an outboard motor.

According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a protective housing for an outboard portion of an inboard-outboard boat drive system, the outboard portion being mounted outboard of a boat transom, said housing
15 composed of a rigid material and being configured to be fitted over the boat drive so as to enclose the outboard portion, thereby preventing damage to the outboard portion while in use, transit or storage, said housing having a transom-engaging end with an opening for receiving the boat drive therethrough. Thus, in this embodiment, the housing is arranged for use specifically with an inboard-outboard boat drive
20 system.

Thus, enclosure of the outboard portion of the boat drive system in a resilient, rigid housing not only discourages theft, it also limits exposure of the outboard portion to potentially corrosive or damaging elements, such as rain, sun snow, dust, rocks, stones and fresh water and salt water marine life such as
25 mollusks. As a result, less time and money need be spent on repair and

-4-

maintenance of the boat drive system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES:

Figure 1 is a front view of the protective apparatus arranged for use with an
5 outboard motor.

Figure 2 is a rear view of the protective apparatus arranged for use with an
outboard motor.

Figure 3 is a front view of the first portion and the second portion of the
protective apparatus.

10 Figure 4 is a front view of the protective apparatus arranged for use with an
inboard-outboard boat drive system.

Figure 5 is a side view of the protective apparatus arranged for use with an
inboard-outboard boat drive system.

15 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION:**

Referring to the drawings, a protective apparatus 1 for the outboard portion
of a boat drive system comprises a housing 10 composed of a rigid material. In this
embodiment, the housing 10 is composed of a resilient plastics material.

The housing 10 comprises a first portion 12 and a second portion 14
20 connected by hinge means 16 as shown in Figures 1-5. In this embodiment, the
hinge means 16 comprises a stainless steel hinge 18. It is of note that the first
portion 12 and the second portion 14 are essentially mirror images of one another
and the first portion 12 and the second portion 14 are arranged to be fitted together
to form the housing 10. As a result of this arrangement, the housing 10 is hollow for
25 insertion of the outboard portion therein as described below. Specifically, in this

-5-

embodiment, the first portion 12 includes an upper region 20 and the second portion 14 includes an upper region 22 and the upper regions 20, 22 are interconnected by the stainless steel hinge 18 for pivoting thereabouts. The housing 10 further comprises a top 24, a middle 26, a base 28, a front 30, a back 32, sides 34, an inner surface 36 and an outer surface 38. The outer surface 38 of the housing 10 includes clasps 40 along the front 30 and the back 32 of the housing 10 positioned along the top 24, the base 28 and the middle 26 of the housing 10 for securing the first portion 12 and the second portion 14 together. It is of note that in this embodiment the housing 10 is arranged to have a substantially similar shape as the outboard portion of a boat drive system. That is, in an embodiment wherein the protective apparatus 1 is arranged for use with an outboard motor, the housing 10 is arranged to be narrow at the middle 26 and wide at the top 24 and the base 28 so as to conform with the typical shape of an outboard motor, as shown in Figures 1-3. Similarly, in an embodiment wherein the protective apparatus 1 is arranged for use with an inboard-outboard drive system, the housing 10 is arranged to be wider in the middle 26 so as to conform with the general shape of the outboard portion of an inboard-outboard drive system as shown in Figures 4 and 5. Furthermore, the inner surface 36 of the housing 10 includes cushioning means 42 for fitting the housing 10 over outboard portions of boat drive systems of different makes and models. In this embodiment, the cushioning means 42 comprises a resilient foam liner 44. The outer surface 38 of the housing 10 further includes connecting means 46 for securing the protective apparatus 1 to a boat transom as described below. In this embodiment, the connecting means 46 comprise stainless steel loops 48 located on the back 32 and the sides 34 of the housing 10 proximal to the base 28 of the housing 10 for passing a nylon strap therethrough for securing the protective

-6-

apparatus 1 to the transom of the boat as described below. The front 30 of the housing 10 is arranged to include an opening 50 for accommodating the connection of the boat drive system to the transom of the boat. In addition, the base 28 of the housing 10 includes a drain plug 52 for draining water from within the protective apparatus 1 as described below.

The protective apparatus 1 is fitted over the outboard portion of a boat drive system connected to the transom of a boat as follows. The first portion 12 and the second portion 14 are pivoted away from one another upon the hinge 18 and the protective apparatus 1 is fitted over the outboard portion of the boat drive system such that the opening 50 at the front 30 of the housing 10 is directed towards the transom. As noted above, the housing 10 is arranged to have the shape typical of the outboard portion of most boat drive systems. Furthermore, the resilient foam liner 44 along the inner surface 36 of the housing 10 allows the housing 10 to conform to the specific shape of the outboard portion of many different makes of boat drive systems, thereby ensuring a tight fit around the outboard portion. The clasps 40 on the front 30 and the back 32 of the housing 10 positioned along the top 24, the base 28 and the middle 26 of the housing 10 are then fitted together, thereby securing the first portion 12 to the second portion 14. The protective apparatus 1 is then secured to the boat via the connecting means 46. In this embodiment, a nylon strap is passed through the steel loops 48 and the nylon strap is then attached to the boat, thereby securing the protective apparatus 1 to the transom.

In operation, the protective apparatus 1 encloses the outboard portion of the boat drive system in a rigid housing, thereby protecting the boat drive system from damage by the elements, such as rain, snow and sun whether the boat is in use, in

-7-

transit or in storage. In addition, the protective apparatus 1 reduces the exposure of the outboard portion of the boat drive system to fresh water and/or salt water, thereby limiting exposure to marine life such as mollusks and the like which may damage the boat drive system. Furthermore, the protective apparatus 1 is arranged to be sufficiently resilient to resist rock blows while transporting the boat to the docking area. Similarly, the protective apparatus 1 will protect the boat drive system from dirt and dust. The protective apparatus 1 is also arranged to enclose the bolts and/or wires connecting the outboard portion of the boat drive system to the boat which, as noted above, are the most common targets of thieves. As a result, the protective apparatus 1 acts as a theft deterrent device as well by restricting access to the elements connecting the boat drive system to the transom of the boat. Thus, the above-described protective apparatus 1 significantly reduces the wear on the outboard portion of the boat drive system, thereby reducing the frequency of repair and the time spent taking care of the boat drive system after use.

Since various modifications can be made in my invention as herein above described, and many apparently widely different embodiments of same made within the spirit and scope of the claims without departing from such spirit and scope, it is intended that all matter contained in the accompanying specification shall be interpreted as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense.

-8-

CLAIMS:

1. A protective apparatus for a boat drive system having an outboard portion thereof that is outboard of the transom and mounting means mounting the outboard portion on the transom, said protective apparatus enclosing the outboard portion
5 and comprising:

a housing composed of a rigid material, said housing being configured to be fitted over the outboard portion so as to enclose the outboard portion, thereby preventing damage to the outboard portion while in use, transit or storage, said housing including an opening to accommodate the mounting means.

10 2. The protective apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the housing is composed of a resilient plastics material.

3. The protective apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the housing comprises a first portion and a second portion connected by hinge means.

4. The protective apparatus according to Claim 3 wherein the housing includes
15 clasps for securing the first portion and the second portion together.

5. The protective apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the housing has a base and the base includes a drain plug.

6. The protective apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the housing includes an inner resilient foam liner.

20 7. The protective apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the housing includes belt loops for anchoring the housing to the transom.

8. An outboard motor housing for an outboard motor including mounting means for mounting the motor on the transom of a boat, said housing composed of a rigid material and being configured to be fitted over the outboard motor so as to enclose
25 the outboard motor, thereby preventing damage to the outboard motor while in use,

-9-

transit or storage, said housing including an opening to accommodate the mounting means.

9. An protective housing for an outboard portion of an inboard-outboard boat drive system, the outboard portion being mounted outboard of a boat transom, said
5 housing composed of a rigid material and being configured to be fitted over the outboard portion so as to enclose the outboard portion, thereby preventing damage to the outboard portion while in use, transit or storage, said housing having a transom-engaging end with an opening for receiving the outboard portion therethrough.

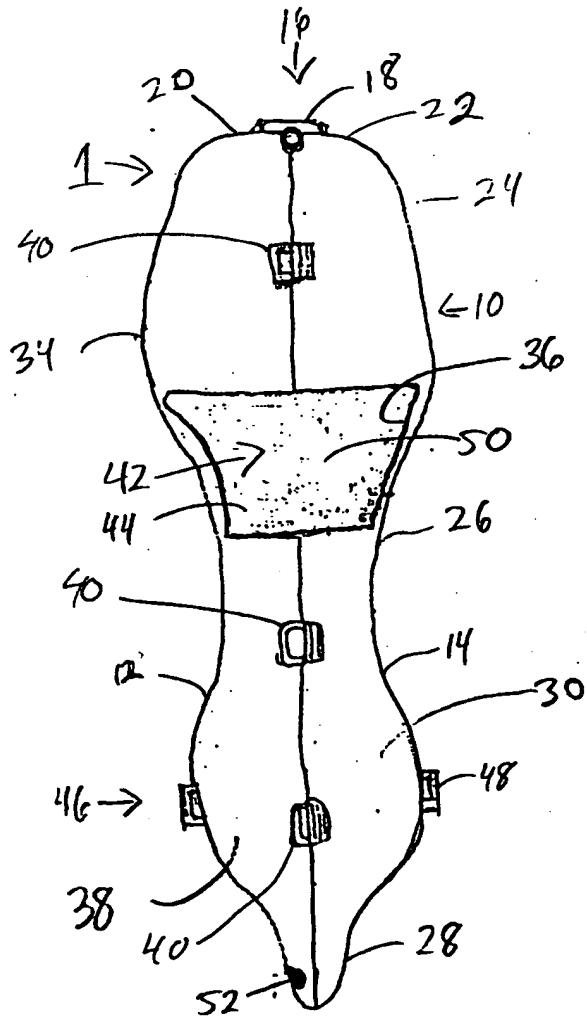


FIG. 1

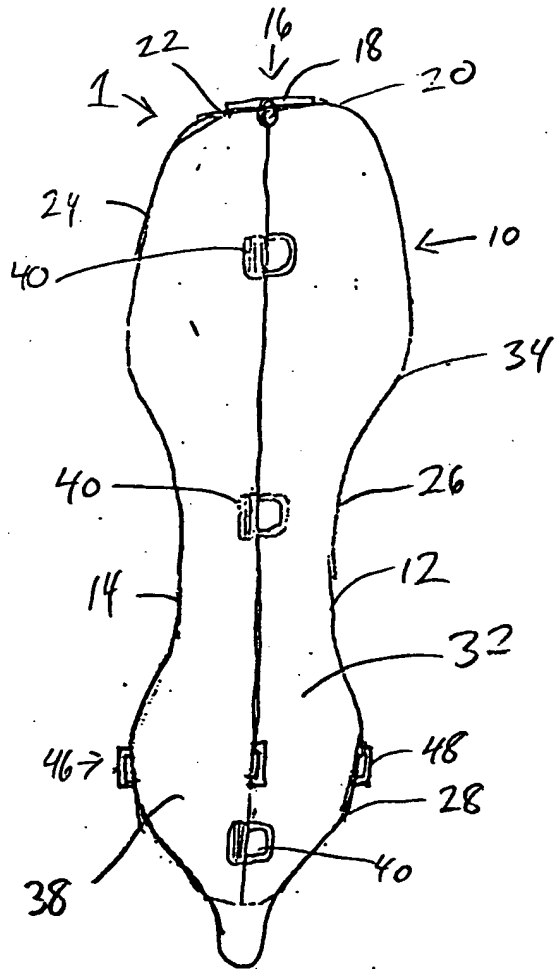


FIG. 2

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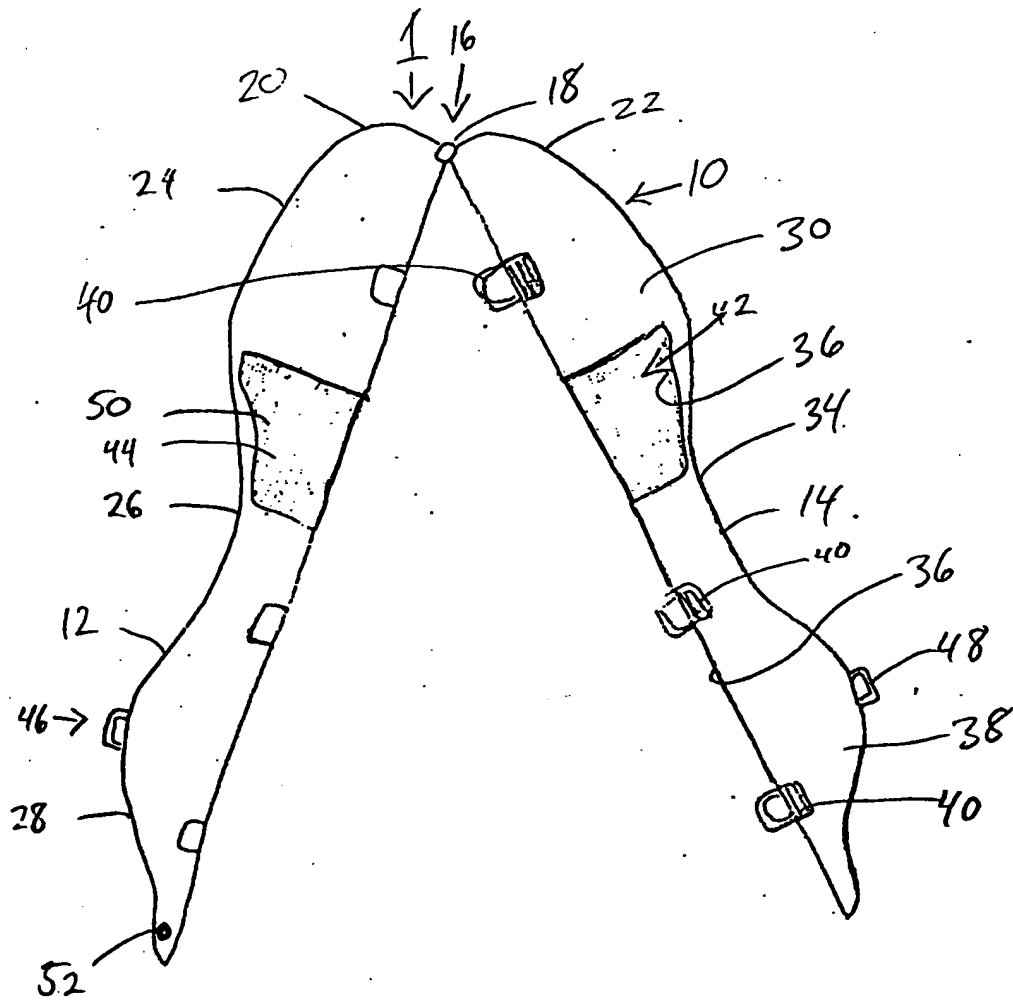


FIG. 3

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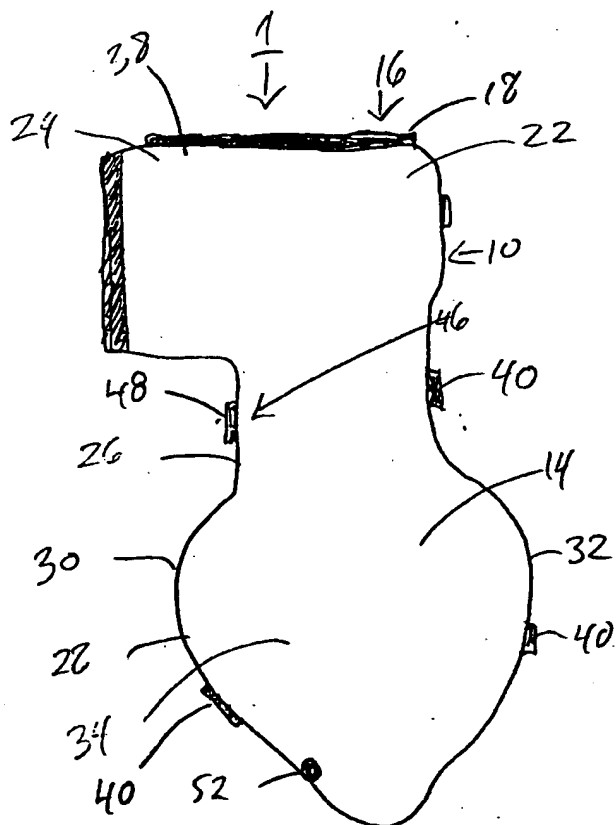


FIG. 5

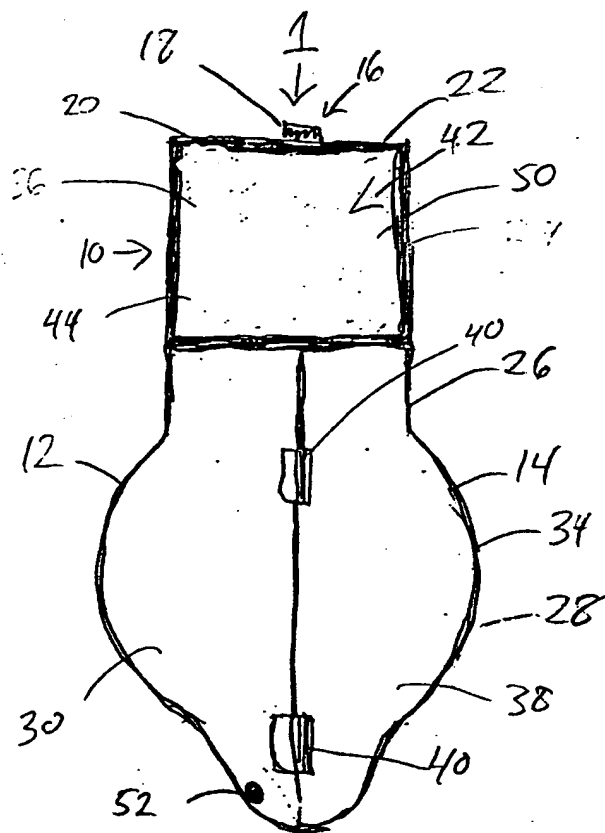


FIG. 4

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